

CLAIMS

1. Process for testing a switching system receiving data units according to a point-to-point transmission interface format originating from an external network facility, the data units transporting packets of a higher layer protocol, in which first data units originating from the external network facility are processed so as to recover first packets transported by the first data units, test traffic carried by second packets of the said higher layer protocol is generated, the first and second packets are multiplexed so as to form a stream of multiplexed packets, the stream of multiplexed packets is converted into second data units according to the said point-to-point transmission interface format, and the second data units are transmitted to the switching system.

2. Process according to Claim 1, in which the generation of the test traffic comprises the production of a stream of data units according to a specified interface format, transporting the said second packets, and a processing of the said stream of data units so as to recover the second packets.

3. Process according to Claim 2, in which the said specified interface format is distinct from the said point-to-point transmission interface format.

4. Process according to any one of the preceding claims, in which states of the switching system are controlled by means of the first packets by way of the external network facility.

5. Process according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, in which the switching system is linked to several external network facilities and states of the switching system are controlled by way of at least one of the said external network facilities.

6. Process according to any one of the preceding claims, in which the said higher layer protocol is an IP protocol.

7. Process according to any one of the preceding claims, in which an arbitration is performed between the first and second packets before their multiplexing.

5 8. Device for inserting traffic comprising first and second interface modules supporting a point-to-point transmission interface format for transferring data units transporting packets of a higher layer protocol, the first interface module being provided so as to receive first data units originating
10 from a network facility and the second interface module being provided so as to send second data units to a switching system, the device furthermore comprising multiplexing means for forming a stream of multiplexed packets comprising first packets recovered by the first
15 interface module from the first data units and second packets of the said higher layer protocol carrying additional traffic, the second data units being produced by the second interface module on the basis of the stream of multiplexed packets.

20 9. Device according to Claim 8, comprising a third interface module receiving a stream of data units according to a specified interface format originating from an external traffic source and recovering the said second packets from the said stream of data units.

25 10. Device according to Claim 9, in which the said specified interface format is distinct from the said point-to-point transmission interface format.

11. Device according to Claim 8, incorporated into a traffic source generating the second packets carrying
30 the said additional traffic.

12. Device according to any one of Claims 8 to 11, in which the said higher layer protocol is an IP protocol.